

Executive Committee Meeting and Tour  
October 21-22, 2009  
Pinedale BLM Office

The meeting began with introductions and a sign in sheet was provided for attendees.

Executive Committee Round Robin

John Linn – A helium plant has been proposed in Sublette County. All the counties are dealing with the issues associated with wind energy and the reduction of budget due to the current economic situation.

Don Simpson – Priorities with the new administration include youth initiatives such as the Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC). He encouraged the use of the WCC when possible. Renewable resources are also a priority with the new administration, and because of the conservation work done by WLCI we are in a good position to give informed opinions on where renewable energy should go.

Steve Ferrell – He has had a lot of contact with industry and JIO/PAPO. The Ruby Pipeline which runs through southwestern Wyoming may potentially have funds for future projects. WGF Commissioners have produced a resolution on public access on wind farms. This resolution is available on the game and fish website ([gf.state.wy.us](http://gf.state.wy.us)). Any comments need to be made to the commissioners. WGFD was given court ordered funds for raptor research.

Jason Fearnelyhough – Board of Ag has discussed and commented on renewable energy on private and public lands. Their comments vary by situation. The board is also working to address access for big game reduction and utilization.

Mary Thoman – She made a request during the Area 5 Conference for donation of funds to WLCI for discretionary purposes. Conservation Districts are reviewing and making comments on activities and documents on federal lands. She is also working on the Bitter Creek Restoration project to prepare it readiness when funds are available.

Linda Leake – Marcia McNutt has been nominated for director of USGS (sworn in on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>). The DOI strategic plan is out for review. The plan doesn't provide for research. Public comments are requested on this plan. The request for renewal of full funding is in. It is expected to be renewed. USGS is working on a fact sheet, no date for availability was provided. The WLCI workshop fees came to \$25,000. The report and compendium of abstracts will be produced online. Printed copies will not be made through USGS government printing office due to the prohibitive costs. Each agency can download the reports and have them printed.

Brian Kelly – FWS is working with partners on a new Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) program. It is in the developmental stages and will work with climate change issues but may expand to include other issues. There are several LCCs and the WLCI area is included in an LCC area. WLCI can benefit from the research and monitoring that will likely occur within the LCC.

Dave Fogel – The forest service is moving forward with the issues associated with beetle kill.

Old Business

Partner Outreach Flyer – The Executive Committee liked the changes made from the suggestion of the August meeting. The electronic file will be sent to each EC member to print off as needed. It was

requested to have a 'catalog of products' to show as they meet with industry and individuals to garner interest in projects and donations.

Coordination with Wildlife Heritage Foundation – The foundation has updated their website to include WLCI. WLCI website needs to be updated to include a donation section to link to the foundation's website. The online donation forms from WLCI to WHF should be seamless.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordination – An MOU for the purpose of holding some funds from local governments and donations from private individuals and interested corporations for WLCI use has been delayed pending new ideas and information.

Update on WyDOT TIGER projects – These proposed projects will be funded from stimulus funding and the funds will have stipulations placed on them. WyDOT has requested funds for 4 projects, with the first priority at Trapper's Point, followed by underpasses along Highway 189 near Big Piney, I-80 and Highway 189 underpasses headed toward Kemmerer, and underpasses and fencing between Laramie and Walcott Junction along I-80. The projects will help with connectivity in wildlife habitats. WyDOT received 13 letters of support to send with their application for funds, including one from WLCI that was signed by John Linn. Notification of funded projects is expected by February 2010. Information is available on the WYDOT website.

#### Team and Committee Reports

Coordination Team – The next round of Local Project Development Team meetings have been scheduled. The agendas include a review of priorities and an area conservation plan. The Coordination Team has made several project site visits on both existing and proposed projects. Some of the projects have been noted in local newspapers and agency news releases.

Year end progress reports will be forth coming. It is planned to use the reports as a way to highlight projects and partner direct and indirect contributions. It was requested that each agency provide their yearend activity report as a method of providing agency contributions.

USGS has worked on the WLCI JIO/PAPO database. The website release for public use will be within the next few weeks.

Support Subcommittee – Activity within the Support Subcommittee will increase when budgets become available and assistance with projects is needed.

Monitoring Team – Considerable progress has been made on compilation of agency monitoring activities. More input is needed from the BLM on their activities. The monitoring team will discuss protocols for monitoring compatibility. Work will begin on themed Best Management Practices. The EC requested that the monitoring team prepare a simulation of their work on monitoring and BMPs

STAC – The state of WLCI science report is nearly complete. It will be released as soon as possible. STAC asked about and plans to pursue and update to the WLCI science strategy to include partners that weren't involved with WLCI and issues that weren't on the radar (e.g., wind power) when it was written. STAC will begin meeting on a regular schedule to keep everyone informed and to be able to review science activities on a consistent basis.

There was a brief discussion on the schedule of the Science Workshop and when planning would need to occur if another one is held in spring 2011. Ideas were shared about having smaller scale topical science WebEx meetings or other forums to improve communication and alleviate some of the need for large

workshops to be held as frequently. This item was scheduled for the next Executive Committee meeting to provide for more extensive discussion.

Science Update – This year's field season is winding down. The 2008 annual report is available online (<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2009/1201/>) and in hard copy by request. Work on the 2009 annual report will begin soon; the draft report should be available in the spring of 2010. USGS has worked towards accomplishing the recommendations from STAC that included landscape scale assessment of the WLCI area, wind energy spatial data, website improvement, and maintaining emphasis on effectiveness monitoring.

The North Prairie Science Center has acquired 500 square miles of LIDAR images within the WLCI area. This information needs to be ground truthed prior to use.

Wyoming Basin Eco Regional Assessment Workshop will be held on Nov 10.

Workshop on Integrated assessment will be Nov 17 in Rock Springs. Attendees should include the Coordination Team, STAC, science team, and BLM invitees.

The Executive Committee would like a presentation on LIDAR at the next EC meeting.

#### New Business

Logo – Samples of alternate logos were handed out. The consensus was to keep the new logo as close to the old logo as possible for consistency and recognition. Changes include a map that reflects the new boundaries and the potential for future expansion and adjustments to the text portion.

#### 2010 Meeting Schedule

Jan 14-15 in Rock Springs

April 7-8 site to be determined in January (potential ideas are Kemmerer or Seedskadee)

#### Action Items

- Send out Outreach flyer in electronic form – Carolyn Liedtke
- Prepare a 'catalog of products' for outreach – Coordination Team
- Provide a yearend accomplishment report to highlight partnerships – ALL
- Prepare simulation of work on BMP's and monitoring activities for January EC meeting – Monitoring Team
- Prepare ideas for next science workshop (when, where, how) – ALL
- Prepare presentation on LIDAR – USGS
- Follow up with changes in logo – Dan Blake